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A Smear on Pearson

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We have said before and we say again that we do not always agree with Drew Pearson. However, we do respect him as a man who has for some 29 years, conducted a daily newspaper column that has established a record for fairness that few can match.

Mr. Pearson has been the target over the years of a number of smears and attacks. Most recently the hate-mongers who have distorted the right wing of politics beyond the bounds of sanity have taken him on. One little publication (it calls itself a newspaper) has been particularly ugly. The paper in question is the Sun of Palatka, Fla. Now Palatka is in the heart of the cracker belt of Florida—that part that few tourists and winter visitors ever see. The area is there to prove that Mississippi and Georgia have no monopoly on ignorance and bigotry.

The newspaper in which the most recent attacks on Pearson appeared is edited by one Tyler Kent. One of its principal sub-editors and or writers is George Deatherage.

Because this newspaper is apparently being mailed on a bulk rate basis to many people in this area as well as in the South, we feel it incumbent upon us to reveal a few things about its personnel. The articles attacking Pearson were mailed to him by this writer. In a letter to us, Pearson revealed that Tyler Kent, the editor of the Sun, was imprisoned in the Tower of London during World War II after having been convicted of treason for slipping information from the American embassy in London to the Nazis. His helper, Deathridge, was indicted. Pearson tells us, for addition at about the time of Pearl Harbor.

These are the kind of men who now are publishing hate-sheets that destroy the minds of men—particularly men in a hurry who have no time to examine the truth, but must accept it for what it's worth.

President Roosevelt, for all his faults, didn't monkey around with people like Kent and Deatherage. He jailed them for sedition and treason. Might we suggest that John F. Kennedy consider a like remedy for agitators like the founder of the John Birch Society and other similar neo-Nazi bands? It would certainly clear the air and let us get down to business. The anti-fun thing should be left to the ignorant and the agents of the FBI and CIA and their own